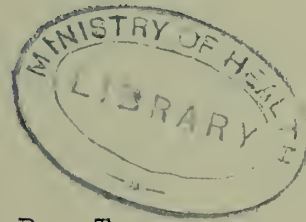


BOROUGH OF



DORCHESTER.



R E P O R T

ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE

B O R O U G H O F D O R C H E S T E R

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

I.B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

DORCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL.

R E P O R T

on the Health and Sanitary condition of the

BOROUGH OF DORCHESTER

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dorchester.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

C.D. DAY, M.A., D.P.H. (Retired 13th August, 1950.)

I.B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 14th August, 1950.)

Sanitary Inspector:

E. GROOMBRIDGE. (1/9/1910 - 6/10/1950.)

Acting Sanitary Inspector:

F.A. FANNER. (1/5/1950 - 27/5/1950.)

E. SMITH. (31/5/1950 - 28/2/1951.)

Clerical Assistants:

Medical Officer of Health .

MISS S. BURGESS.

Sanitary Inspector.

MISS H. BASKETT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Borough is a compact County town, comprised of a central portion of very old buildings of great antiquity and more modern houses on the outskirts. The main roads leading into the town are lined with trees forming impressive avenues of approach, some dating back over two hundred years, and proceed in a North and South, East and West direction in the true Roman manner.

The older portion of the town, naturally, does tend to produce health hazards with its old sewers, congested houses, narrow streets, but with the progress of new housing most of these should be eliminated in the future.

During the year 1950 the health of the Borough has been satisfactory, no major outbreak of disease was reported. The town shared with the rest of the Country the outbreak of Infantile Paralysis, three cases being notified - all recovered.

Visits were made during the year to various shops, and catering establishments; generally speaking, the conditions were satisfactory, but there are still some persons who are unable to appreciate how the health of the community can be affected by uncleanness.

I would like to pay tribute to your former Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Day, who has been with you for 29 years, and although working on a part-time basis has done so much for your town - I refer especially to his Housing Survey; also to Mr. Groombridge, your late Sanitary Inspector, who had more than a full-time post.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

I.B. LAWRENCE.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	1,675 acres.
Resident Population - Estimated	11,780
Census 1951	11,623
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1950	2,069
Rateable Value	£94,020
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£380

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates: 11,780.

Births.

	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Legitimate	79	72	151
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	84	75	159
	==	==	===

Still Births.

Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	1	4	5
	==	==	==

Deaths.

All causes	73	59	132
	==	==	===

Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality).

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	3	1	4
	==	==	==

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality).

Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	2	1	3
	==	==	==

Birth Rate	13.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.8
Death Rate	11.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	25.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	29.8

DEATH RATE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were seven deaths from Pneumonia, and one from Influenza.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria..	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningitis..	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Cancer of stomach.	1	1	2
Cancer of lung	4	-	4
Cancer of breast..	-	1	1
Other Cancers	4	1	5
Anaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system..	10	8	18
Coronary disease, angina	14	7	21
High Blood pressure	1	3	4
Other Heart Disease	15	15	30
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
Influenza...	-	1	1
Pneumonia...	6	1	7
Bronchitis..	4	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum. ...	-	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other diseases	4	6	10
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1
All causes..	73	59	132

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of the Infectious Diseases made during the year:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases Notified.</u> <u>(Age Periods)</u>										<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>‡ A.U.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Measles	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	-	7	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I.Paralysis	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scabies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
T.B. Pulmonary	-	-	-	2	-	2	4	1	-	-	9	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

‡ Denotes "Age Unknown."

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1950 the following cases and deaths from tuberculosis were notified:-

<u>Age</u> <u>Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	2	5	2	-	1	2	-	-

DISINFESTATION.

No. of premises disinfested 3

WATER SUPPLIES.

The whole of the Borough is supplied from a well situated in chalk forming a hill on the West side of the town. The supply has been satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity, it is not plumbo solvent.

The water is hard in character due to calcium carbonate, permanent hardness 200 temporary 120, so it can be appreciably softened by boiling.

Regular samples taken at the reservoir and the various taps in the town have been highly satisfactory. The water is chloraminated. All the houses in the Borough have access to a mains supply.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE.

A weekly collection of refuse is carried out, the disposal being by controlled tipping.

HOUSING.

<u>Council Houses.</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1950.</u>	<u>Completed since end of War.</u>
Temporary	-	-	-
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	30	26	94
Non-Traditional Type	26	-	-
Converted into Flats	-	-	-
War Damaged Houses Repaired	-	-	28
	<u>56</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>122</u>
	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>===</u>

In comparison with other areas of similar size the Borough housing progress is unfavourable, although recently the rate of building has been accelerated. There is no doubt that the health of an area will depend upon the number of houses built - and in defining health one must consider not only illness and deaths, but what we call sub-standard health.

This sub-standard health covers many vague and often ill-defined symptoms, e.g. tiredness, lack of enterprise, possibly delinquency, things which if we were in perfect health, or, shall we say, had positive health, we would not have or contemplate. Of course, all these things cannot be blamed entirely on bad housing.

Still, the conditions under which some people live - dark, damp, dilapidated houses, lack of airspace, narrow congested streets - do increase the risk of disease; and the overcrowding - including sex overcrowding - does not tend to give rise to a happy home. No wonder the children go out and roam the streets, because there is no room to sit, not sufficient light to read, no comfort when they go to bed; these conditions do not reflect well on Local Authorities.

Now another problem faces us; the increased cost of building will raise the rents of houses so that some people may not be able to afford a Council house, and so a simpler type of house must be devised. How many rooms in the house are used at the same time? Very few. I believe we should use the bedrooms more as bed-sittingrooms and if the house were adequately ventilated and heated it would help to solve our problem.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The whole town is sewered - and is divided roughly into two, the Low and High Level main sewers, the former drains the old part of the town and has been in use for many years, the High Level sewer is more modern.

Both carry the sewage to a sewerage works situated at the Eastern end of the Borough. These works are antiquated and cannot adequately deal with the sewage.

The Council are taking steps to deal with the matter, a Consultant's report has been received and the sanction of the Ministry is being sought, to carry out substantial improvements to the works.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided at the County Laboratory, Glyde Path Road, Dorchester.

LABORATORY SPECIMENS.

The following is a table of the number of specimens submitted for Laboratory reports:-

Throat Swabs	...	75	Milk..	...	...
Faeces	...	27	Miscellaneous	...	12
Water	...	14	Ice Cream...	...	15

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

To call the Ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420. In an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency and nature of case and full address and which Ambulance is required.

OLD PERSONS.

There are no Council houses for old people but the following accommodation is available through various Trusts in three houses:-

1. Four men.
2. Four couples.
3. Eight women.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

No action was necessary under Section 47, i.e. removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

One full-time and 5 part-time helpers are employed for the Borough and Rural District of Dorchester.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR. =====

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general use in the district.

The disposal works are at Louds Mill, the effluent being discharged into the River Frome.

A few houses in the area still have cesspools.

SHOPS ACTS.

Number of inspections made under the Shops Acts - 40.

No exemption certificates were granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS.

Number on Register	...	...	...	111
Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	14
Number of Notices.	...	...	...	4
Number of Defects found.	...	...	...	4
Number of Defects remedied	...	...	...	4

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE.

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	40
Number and nature of inspections made during year	...	...	...	...	560
<u>Nature of Inspections</u>					
Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances etc. in course of abatement..	...	...	...	...	49
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases..	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	325
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to Meat and Food Shops	...	...	...	...	30
Visits to Fish Frying Shops..	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to Bakehouses...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to Factories	...	...	...	...	14
Visits in connection with Rodent Control.	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous visits, interviews with property owners &c...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	40
Drain tests carried out	...	...	...	...	29
Drains unstopped.	...	...	...	...	1
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations removed..	...	...	...	...	1

MEAT INSPECTION.

Premises in the Borough are used as a Government Slaughterhouse by the Ministry of Food, the meat being distributed to the following districts:-

Dorchester Borough.	Wareham Borough.
Dorchester Rural District.	Wareham and Purbeck Rural District.
Portland Urban District.	Weymouth and Melcombe Regis Borough.
Swanage Urban District.	

Throughout the year Inspectors from these districts (with the exception of Wareham and Purbeck Rural District where another Government Slaughterhouse is established) have assisted in the work of meat inspection at the Government Slaughterhouse. The extent of this help is shown in the following table:-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Inspected by Dorchester Borough Inspector.	1664	1666	3568	115	26	7039
By other Inspectors.	2588	299	2995	105	-	5987
	<u>4252</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>6563</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>13026</u>

The total amount of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to approximately 40 tons 13 cwts. Of this approximately 21 tons 9 cwts., was affected with tuberculosis.

Details of carcasses inspected by the Borough Inspector are shown below:-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>
No. killed	1664	1666	3568	115	26
No. inspected	1664	1666	3568	115	26

All diseases except tuberculosis.

Whole carcasses condemned	11	4	8	4	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	499	14	370	16	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	30.65	1.08	10.59	17.39	-

Tuberculosis only.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>
Whole carcasses condemned	30	5	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	226	3	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.38	0.48	-	2.61	-

FOOD CONDEMNED (not including meat condemned
at the Slaughterhouse).

Bacon	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Meat, canned	...	...	...	112 tins.
Meat, carcass	...	...	...	1574 lbs.
Vegetables.	...	...	...	52 lbs.
Milk.	...	...	...	158 tins.
Soup.	...	...	...	28 tins.
Eggs.	...	...	...	205 dozen.
Fruit	...	...	...	687 tins.
Fruit, dried	...	...	...	224 lbs.
Fruit, fresh	...	...	...	129 lbs.
Jam..	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Fish, tinned	...	...	...	17 tins.
Fish, fresh	...	...	...	114 lbs.
Sauce	...	...	...	6 bottles.
Meat Products	...	...	...	19 tins.
Sausages...	...	...	...	49 lbs.
Ice Cream..	...	...	...	400 blocks.
Cake Mixture	...	...	...	66 lbs.
Tea..	...	...	...	1 lb.

ICE CREAM.

There are 32 premises in the district registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream. The majority of ice cream sold is pre-packed.

Results of 15 samples taken -

Grade 1	...	...	...	9
Grade 2	...	...	...	3
Grade 3	...	...	...	2
Grade 4	...	...	...	1

CAMPING CONTROL.

During the year four licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were issued in respect of individual caravans.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses.

Total No. of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 49

No. of inspections made for the purpose ... 101

Remedy of Defects - Informal Action.

No. of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.. ... 34

Remedy of Defects - Statutory Action.

Proceedings under Sec. 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.. ... 7

No. of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -

(a) by owners ... Nil

(b) by local authority in default of owners ... Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -

(a) by owners ... Nil

(b) by local authority in default of owners ... Nil

Proceedings under Sec. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ... Nil

No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order... ... Nil

Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

No. of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil

OVERCROWDING.

A small number of cases of overcrowding are known to exist.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year 12 premises were treated for infestation by rats or mice, the cost of treatment being recovered from the occupiers.

